



Art League Houston
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For Immediate Release

A Good Cry
Sallie Scheufler

Exhibition Dates: February 24, 2023 – April 22, 2023
Opening Reception: 6 – 8 PM Friday, February 24, 2023
Artist Talks: 2 PM, Saturday, February 25, 2023
Front Gallery



Sallie Scheufler, *Crying (onion, menthol, fan, fake)*, 2018, video with sound,
Image courtesy of the artist

February 20, 2023. Houston, TX - Art League Houston (ALH) is proud to present *A Good Cry*, an exhibition by Albuquerque-based artist Sallie Scheufler. *A Good Cry* questions and scrutinizes the nature of crying behavior. The artist asks the viewer to consider the following questions: what affects my ability to control my body? Why is emotion often separated from the body? Can crying be a valid form of communication? Is crying an action or a reaction? Does crying equal weakness? Is crying performative? How much of crying is learned? Is crying always emotional? How can manipulating the experience of crying give me control over the act itself?

A Good Cry is inspired by, and literally made of tears. Through a series of performative videos, Scheufler induces crying to regain a sense of control over her body, using



onions, menthol, a high-powered fan, and forcing herself to fake tears. *The Futile Handkerchiefs*, made of various materials, fail to offer solace or an ending to tears; instead, they generate more tears, cause pain, or embarrassment. A video installation about the act of swallowing a birth control pill, every day, every week, every month, every year, to control her body in turn makes her body lose control. Crystals grown from her own tears on used tissues make a disposable object precious and serve as a record of her cries. A too-tall-to-reach tissue box provides a seemingly endless volume of tissues for the never-ending cry. A box made with a single tissue reserved for a vital cry. Akin to Sarah Ahmed's *Feminist Killjoy*, who creates social discomfort, Scheufler calls attention to the moments when the salty fluid is met with social unease.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Sallie Scheufler (she/they) is a multidisciplinary artist, activist, and educator. Scheufler uses personal history as artistic fodder in the context of intersectional feminism through performance, video, photography, and sculpture. They examine and unveil the power structures present in different forms of verbal, written, and non-verbal communication. Scheufler has exhibited their work at the Amarillo Museum of Art, Northlight Gallery in Phoenix, AZ, the University of New Mexico Art Museum, *Wo/Manhouse 2022* in Belen, NM, and during Miami Art Week at *Fair Play*, among others. Scheufler is the recipient of the Beaumont Newhall Fellowship and the Robert Heineken scholarship. In 2018, they received their MFA in studio art from the University of New Mexico. They currently reside on Tiwa Territory in so-called Albuquerque, NM with their spotted dog and partner.

<http://www.salliescheufler.com/>

Instagram: @salliescheufler

For more information, visit www.artleaguehouston.org, or contact Zhaira Costiniano, Exhibitions and Curatorial Projects Manager, at zhaira@artleaguehouston.org or 713-523-9530.

Art League Houston is funded in part by a grant from the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance, Houston Endowment, Inc. Brown Foundation, Inc. Texas Commission on the Arts, and National Endowment for the Arts.



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Art League Houston acknowledges the following individuals, private foundations, public funders, and corporations for their support this season:

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